

HUMOR

HE DIDN'T BUY.

Experience of a Man in Search of a Present For His Girl.

"A fellow never realizes what a woman's articles of wear cost until he is engaged to be married," observed a young business man. "This fact was impressed on me with particular emphasis. I happened to meet on lower Broadway a college chum, now in business and in moderate circumstances, who has just become engaged to a nice girl, also without an independent fortune.

"Come in here with me, Jack," he said, stopping in front of a well known shop. "Tomorrow is Minnie's birthday, and I want to get her a remembrance."

"What is it going to be?" I asked as we made our way in.

"Well," he replied, "I've sent her so much candy and flowers and stuff of that sort that I think I'll vary it with something useful this time. I've been thinking of some nice handkerchiefs."

"I agreed that handkerchiefs were always a satisfactory possession, and we wended our way to the proper counter.

"I want to look at women's handkerchiefs—something rather nice, suitable for a gift," said Jim, my companion.

"The saleswoman produced a box of filmy affairs about the size of the palm of your hand, with a narrow border of lace and some kind of fancy business in each corner.

"Those are neat and simple looking," said Jim approvingly. "How much are they?"

"When the answer came, 'Twelve dollars,' Jim thought, and so did I, that the price named was for the entire box.

"Very well, I'll take a dozen," he answered, with a care free tone which made the saleswoman look at us a little curiously.

"Excuse me, but how many did you say?" she asked.

"One dozen. There are a dozen in the box, are there not?"

"Yes, sir," returned the young woman, with an impressed air. "One hundred and forty-four dollars, please," she said, making out the slip.

"It was our turn to stare.

"I don't understand you," said Jim, gasping. "I thought you were quoting the price by the dozen."

"You'll hardly get linen and real Valenciennes with those hand worked corners for a dollar apiece," sniffed the saleswoman superciliously.

"I don't know hand work from fish net myself," retorted Jim crossly. "But I do know I'm not going to pay \$12 for a lot of rag three inches square. Come away, Jack; I'll get some kind of a bangle at the jeweler's."

"When we had escaped from the withering glance of the damsel behind the counter Jim mopped the perspiration from his brow.

"And then they say modern young men are too selfish to marry," he groaned.—New York Press.

Opinions.

Tess—I've a perfect right to flirt if I want to.

Jess—I know, but there are some people who don't approve of that sort of thing.

Tess—Yes, and there are some other people who don't approve of the people who don't approve of that sort of thing.—Philadelphia Press.

The Silent Message.

"What kind of a time is Jack having on his trip across the Atlantic?"

"Awful."

"How do you know?"

"He promised to send me a wireless every six hours unless he was too sick to hold his head up, and I haven't heard from him since he left New York harbor."—Detroit Free Press.

Best He Could Do.

Eva—I saw Charlie Coger yesterday.

Edna—You don't say. And did he tip his hat?

Eva—No, he wagged his foot.

Edna—Wagged his foot? Why, that is a strange way to greet a lady.

Eva—Well, you see the poor fellow was under his automobile mending a break.—Chicago News.

Erasing the Question.

"Have you ever put aside anything for a rainy day?"

"Mister," answered the native, "we don't have to worry about rain in this part of the country. What we're afraid of is droughts."—Washington Star.

Distinguished Customer.

Village Barber (to summer visitor)—Last year we had a cabinet minister staying here, and I shaved him several times. Look here, and you will see the marks of his blood on this chair.—Magendorfer Blatter.

Just Like a Woman.

The Man—I am surprised to see you reading a historical novel. Don't you find it rather dull?

The Maid—Oh, no. You see, there is so much in it one can skip.—Columbus Dispatch.

FACTS IN FEW LINES

A Russian woman may not enter a university unless she is married.

The ratio of married couples living to celebrate the golden anniversary is 1 to 11,000.

Paris soon will have hansom cabs the fronts of which will be opened or shut by the "fare" pressing the button.

The hypodermic injection of sea water in twenty-four tuberculosis patients at a Paris hospital is said to have been followed by remarkably favorable results.

The first order received from San Francisco after the earthquake by a New York publisher was for "Successful Houses" and "One Hundred Best Houses."

A Kansas man claims to have made the discovery that water below a dam is much softer than that above it. He says that falling over the dam breaks the water.

A beautiful green shade of gold which is often used in making fine jewelry is the result of an alloy consisting of five parts of silver and nineteen parts of pure gold.

An Italian has invented a machine for printing railroad tickets as they are needed. The apparatus can print and register 400 different kinds of tickets, with station, date and fare.

Several old Liverpool tram cars have just been purchased by a hospital for consumptives. It is proposed to place the cars in the grounds of the institution and use them as bedrooms for the consumptive patients.

An English newspaper published recently an advertisement reading thus: "Widower, living retired, without income, would like to correspond with lady about forty, with small means, with one leg preferred, with a view to early marriage."

When Edouard de Reszke comes to this country next fall to sing he will begin again to make his fortune, it is said. Most of the money that he made here has been lost, so the basso didn't himself, near the end of his career, compelled to start over again.

A farmer in McPherson county, Kan., makes his automobile do double duty. He uses it in the daytime to run errands and to oversee things on the farm. At night he jacks it up off the ground, connects it with a small dynamo and supplies his home with electric lights.

Every department of labor is united in Holland with all other departments. So the other night the spectacle was seen at the Amsterdam Opera House of a crowd of bootmakers and cobblers wrecking the performance of an opera for which no punition choristers had been enlisted.

A heroic equestrian statue of George Washington, to be erected at the Brooklyn terminal of the new Williamsburg bridge, has been cast in bronze. It was modeled by Henry Merwin Shrady, and Washington is represented in Continental uniform and as he appeared at Valley Forge.

A man who was arrested for breaking into a house in Berlin explained that he only wished a pair of shoes belonging to a celebrated Russian woman pianist who was staying in the house. A collection of women's shoes, all docketed and catalogued, was found in his room.

A negro went into a Brooklyn drug store the other day to get a glass of ice cream soda. The proprietor said that he would ask \$1 for the soda. The negro said that was all right if the druggist would give him a receipt. Then the druggist saw his danger and came down.

The priests of the various parishes in Spain had a busy time on Alfonso's wedding day. There was a rush of betrothed couples of the poorer classes to be married on the same day as the king. In one parish alone forty couples were united. This is typical of the other parishes.

The crown prince of Sweden when he was first married took his young bride into the headquarters of his regiment and said, "Gentlemen, the colonel in command of the regiment desires to introduce his wife to the regiment." She was received with applause, and the name has stuck.

The evidence before the British army stores commissioners as to graft during the Boer war shows that there was only one regiment the contractors were unable to cheat. That proud distinction belongs to the Seventh hussars. They weighed everything and checked the quality of everything supplied them.

Denmark's kings for 384 years have all been named Christian or Frederick. It is the law of Denmark that Christian must be succeeded by Frederick and Frederick by Christian. To attain this every Danish prince, no matter what other names he may receive, always has Christian and Frederick among them.

Ole Janson, for whom the town of Olsburg, Kan., was named, has asked the district court of Pottawatomie county to change his name to Ole Johnson. His name when he came to America was Johnson, but when he took out his naturalization papers the clerk understood him to say Janson, and Janson has been his legal name, if not his actual name, ever since he became a citizen.

To supply fresh flowers for the spirit of his mother, whom he declares visits his garden nightly, Horace Melvin of Waterville, Mass., has planted 2,200 feet of fragrant sweet peas. He has not planted the new varieties because the flowers his mother liked best before her death five years ago were the common pink and white ones. Mr. Melvin says his mother visits the garden every fair night, sometimes alone and sometimes with other spirits. He has several times caught glimpses of white robed figures in his garden.

NEW SHORT STORIES

A Bishop on the Plains.

Reaching Clayton about 1 o'clock, I was met cordially by my host, who bade me alight and partake of his hospitality. I was somewhat late for dinner, but the dining room was still open, and I soon found myself seated at the table. Scarcely had I begun my dinner when a man in the far corner of the room hailed me in a loud voice:

"Hello, bishop," said he. "Is that you?"

"Yes," I replied.

"Bishop, come over this way and eat with a feller," beckoning to me. By this time I had easily discovered that my friend was far from sober. I declined the invitation to join him by reminding him that I had already been served and that it would be inconvenient to have my dishes carried over.



"BISHOP, ARE YOU GOING TO TALK TO THE BOYS HERE TONIGHT?"

to his table. I added that I would see him after dinner. That suggestion did not at all satisfy him. He said:

"Bishop, are you going to talk to the boys here tonight?" I told him that that was my object in coming to the camp.

"Well," he added, "I am glad, for God knows these fellows here need it. You see, bishop, the trouble with the boys here is that they drink too much." He was obviously the last person to complain of that tendency on the part of his brethren. So I ventured to say, "Well, my friend, I am very sorry to hear that, but if you will pardon me, it seems to me that you are suffering from that same trouble yourself just now."

He saw my point, but was ready for my sally and quickly rejoined, "You are right, bishop, but, don't you see, when the bishop comes a feller just has to celebrate."—Right Rev. E. Talbot in Harper's Magazine.

Both in the Same Boat.

At a recent dinner which was attended by a number of clergymen President Buckham of the University of Vermont told the following of Bishop Hall of the Episcopal diocese of Vermont, in response to some good natured chaff about the liberal views of the Congregational church and the ease with which almost anybody could join it.

He said he had heard of a negro who had many times applied for membership in St. Paul's church at Burlington, but had not been able to satisfy the bishop that his state of mind entitled him to admission. The negro had been advised to pray that his spiritual condition might improve.

After doing so he made a new application. The bishop said to him:

"Well, Erastus, have you prayed as I told you to?"

"Yes, indeed, suh; I done prayed an' I done tole de Lawd I wants to jine St. Paul's church, an' de Lawd he say to me:

"'Good luck, Rastus; I been tryin' to jine dat church fo' twenty years.'"

Too Appreciative.

Some Oklahoma people were low in their minds about an outrage or two perpetrated on that territory by the statehood bill. One of them was making quite a fuss about it, claiming things would be all wrong when the territory became a state.

"Reminds me," said Raconteur Oulahan, "of a thing that happened in my school days. We used to have a lecture every Friday afternoon, and one day the lecturer was a geological sharp and chose Niagara falls for his topic. He told us all about the geological formation of the falls, described the different periods that could be traced in the gorge and then went on to say that the falls were slowly wearing back toward Buffalo and that in the course of some 200,000 years they would have worn back to Erie, Pa., and that town would be left high and dry."

"Just then one of the girls in the class began to sob wildly."

"What's the matter?" asked the teacher in alarm.

"Oh," she wailed, "I've got a sister living in Erie!"—Kansas City Star.

A Power.

Professor Palmer of Harvard says that the masculine habit of rigid, logical reasoning is contracted very early in life, and in illustration he tells the following story, repeated in the New York Observer:

"A little boy and girl of my acquaintance were tucked up snug in bed when their mother heard them talking."

"I wonder what we are here for," asked the little boy. The girl remembered the lesson that had been taught her and replied sweetly:

"We are here to help others." The little boy sniffed.

"Then what are the others here for?" he asked.

CHOICE MISCELLANY

Telephone and Language.
To obtain the best results from the telephone a well modulated voice and a crisp, distinct enunciation are necessary. The soft drawl and the dropping of the R's which characterize the south would make any such change first perceptible there. The telephone should have a tendency also to cause the western drawl to disappear.

Talking over the wire naturally is accompanied by the feeling that it must be brief and businesslike. This not only on account of the tolls charged if the distance is considerable, but because the person who "calls up" is bound to remember that the one to whom he is speaking may be busy.

Long distance telephoning, which is daily coming into greater use, must also have a certain effect in bringing the breaking of the language nearer to a common level. This also has been noticed in the south, where the recent business and industrial awakening has suddenly increased the necessity for communication with other sections of the country.

Any change in the talking of English made by the telephone is sure to be for the better. It will mean tones neither too high nor too low and terse, clear sentences, distinctly articulated.—Cleveland Leader.

Dewey and the Cables.
Admiral Dewey grew reminiscent as the 1st of May rolled around this year. He narrated to a number of friends the manner in which he learned that there were two cables instead of one, as he supposed, in Manila bay.

"I had found and cut one cable," said the admiral, "and thought that ended the whole business, as far as communication went, when a captain of a small boat to whom I had given permission to carry out some refugees from Manila came on board to thank me for the privilege accorded him. He had made several hundred dollars out of the deal I learned incidentally."

While on board he casually remarked:

"Tengo entendido que usted ha cortado un cable telegrafo, almirante?" ("I understand you have cut a cable, admiral?")

"I informed him that I had, and when he innocently asked, 'Which one?' I began to get busy, and it was not a half hour until I had the other wire located and cut."—Harper's Weekly.

A Famous Old Company.
Hudson Bay company's stock of a nominal value of \$10 is selling at \$26 per share in London and paying a dividend of 80 shillings. This venerable corporation is now in its two hundred and thirty-seventh year. The company still deals in furs and does a large general trade, but its great profits are derived from its land sales. Thirty-six years ago it gave up its territorial rights to the Canadian government in consideration of \$1,500,000 in cash and the right to claim one-twentieth of the land in any township or district surveyed for settlement in fifty years after 1870.

It is now estimated that the land to which it will be entitled will amount to about 7,000,000 acres. It has already received more than 4,000,000 acres and has disposed of about 1,600,000 acres. Its trading profit last year approximated \$850,000, while it netted \$1,110,000 from its land department. Its total net profits aggregated \$2,960,000.—Boston Transcript.

Clasp Knives Cause Ocean Disasters.
Off the coast of a fishing station in England there have been numerous wrecks for some time past owing to the inexplicable errors of the compass. This led the underwriters to make an investigation, with the result that they discovered deflections of the compass were due to a special type of large clasp knife that is popular with the local fishermen there for use in their work. The method of tempering the knife in the course of manufacture confers upon it magnetic properties that are so powerful that when it is in a wheelman's pocket it deflects the needle two or three points and as the man moves the needle gyrates in the oddest manner. The knives are now recognized as dangerous, and the skippers are forbidding everybody to enter the bridge house with one of them.

Buddhist Pantheon Found.
According to a report in the Berliner Tageblatt, the Prussian expedition to Chinese Turkestan has unearthed a Buddhist Pantheon. Remains were found of persons belonging to a red haired, blue eyed race, evidently the founders of the temple in the Mingol caves, and bearing garments of unmistakably Iranian origin. A number of great iron swords were also discovered. Search revealed the existence of further numerous Buddhist frescoes containing many figures.

Absinth Bonbons.
Recently the cantonal government of Vaud, Switzerland, passed a law prohibiting the sale of absinth. As the people of Vaud were the best customers of the Neuchatel distilleries these were badly hit by the law and set about outmaneuvering it.

The result is "absinth bonbons," which are now being placed on the market. Four of them will make a drink when broken into a glass, and a special law will be required to prevent their sale.

Antelope Problem.
"What would you do if the power gave out while you were climbing a hill and the brake broke?" was one of the questions recently asked of applicants for licenses to run motor cars. Strange to say, this simple proposition stumped many of the men. The answer, of course, is that the only thing to be done is to steer the machine as it runs back down the hill to the side of the road.

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